

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently amended). A method of inhibiting an infection, comprising administering to the gastrointestinal tract of an animal a composition comprising an isolated *Bacillus* strain, wherein said strain is selected from the group consisting of ~~*Bacillus coagulans* GBI-1~~, *Bacillus coagulans* GBI-20 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6085), *Bacillus coagulans* GBI-30 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6086) and *Bacillus coagulans* GBI-40 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6087), or a combination thereof.

27-28. (Cancelled).

29. (Original). The method of claim 26, wherein said composition comprises a viable vegetative bacterial cell.

30. (Original). The method of claim 26, wherein said composition comprises a bacterial spore.

31-32. (Cancelled).

33. (Original). The method of claim 29, wherein said composition is administered at a dose of 1×10^2 to 1×10^{14} viable vegetative bacterial cells per day.

34. (Original). The method of claim 30, wherein said composition is administered at a dose of 1×10^2 to 1×10^{14} spores per day.

35. (Previously presented). The method of claim 26, wherein said composition is administered orally or buccally.

36. (New). A method of inhibiting an infection, comprising administering to the gastrointestinal tract of an animal a composition comprising isolated *Bacillus coagulans* GBI-20 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6085).

37. (New). A method of inhibiting an infection, comprising administering to the gastrointestinal tract of an animal a composition comprising isolated *Bacillus coagulans* GBI-30 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6086).

38. (New). A method of inhibiting an infection, comprising administering to the gastrointestinal tract of an animal a composition comprising isolated *Bacillus coagulans* GBI-40 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6087).

39. (New). A method of inhibiting an infection, comprising administering to the gastrointestinal tract of an animal a composition comprising isolated *Bacillus coagulans* GBI-20 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6085), isolated *Bacillus coagulans* GBI-30 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6086), and isolated *Bacillus coagulans* GBI-40 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6087).